

Environmental Careers



Ever think of an environmental career?

You may be surprised at all of the different jobs available and the places you can work. Environmental careers are extremely diverse ranging from attorney to zoologist and from desk work to field or classroom work. Because environmental careers are so diverse, there are opportunities for you with almost any kind of educational background.

Most jobs in the environmental field are located in three categories:

- **Federal, state and local government;**
- **Private sector;** and
- **Non-profits.**

The federal government offers many environmental career opportunities. The U.S. Department of the Interior employs more than 70,000 people including expert scientists and resource management professionals. More than 14,000 people work at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency including auditors, criminal investigators, economists and pharmacologists. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which is housed at the U.S. Department of Commerce, has about 12,000 staff including oceanographers, atmospheric scientists and hurricane hunters.

State and local governments have careers in areas such as environmental protection, environmental education/outreach, agriculture, coastal zoning, planning, waste management and recycling, fisheries and wildlife operations as well as air, land and water management. Many cities and colleges/universities have sustainability coordinators.

Environmental careers are found in many areas of the private sector from Fortune 500 companies to small businesses. Larger companies often have their own environmental staff to ensure compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations as well as implement pollution prevention programs. Other options include environmental law (e.g., attorney), media (e.g., environmental reporter) and consulting (e.g., providing technical expertise on various projects).

National, state and local non-profits are another option. Positions (e.g., researchers, advocacy) at some of the best known environmental non-profits are the most competitive of all environmental career offerings.

Many people choose environmental education as a career becoming teachers or instructors or researchers at a college/university.

The possibilities are endless.

Careers at DHEC

The mission of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is to protect public health and the environment – to help people live healthy lives in healthy communities.

Making a difference starts with you.

DHEC has many types of jobs. Some include:

- **Attorneys;**
- **Doctors and nurses;**
- **Pharmacists;**
- **Nutritionists;**
- **Engineers, geologists and hydrologists;**
- **Accountants;**
- **Food safety inspectors;**
- **Communication professionals;** and
- **Graphic artists.**

Staff respond to environmental emergencies, track underground storage tanks, inspect landfills, work in a laboratory and monitor South Carolina's air and water.

DHEC not only has many types of jobs, it has health and environmental offices throughout South Carolina.

Visit www.scdhec.gov/agency/careers to learn more about environmental careers at DHEC.

Visit www.jobs.sc.gov to see a listing of all state government jobs.